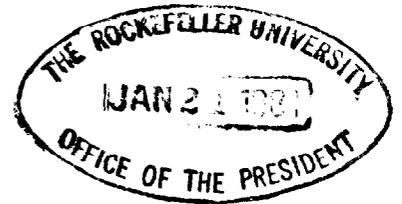




Centers for Disease Control  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333  
(404) 329-3636

January 19, 1981

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.  
President  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021



Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your recent note regarding the Editorial Note in the MMWR relating to the treatment of lionfish stings. The member of our staff who wrote this Editorial Note several years ago is overseas in Dacca at this time, so it has been a little difficult for us to locate the presumed bibliographic reference relating to the use of magnesium sulphate in the treatment of lionfish stings. However, in all probability, the reference was the book "Poisoning" by Jay M. Arena, 3rd edition, Charles Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1974, pp 536-537. You will note in that reference that magnesium sulphate was considered to be useful in the treatment of venomous fish stings--which presumably would include the lionfish. No specific statement was made regarding its pain relieving capacity, but this presumably was the inference drawn by Dr. Glass, who prepared the Editorial Note for us.

I hope this answers your question. I think we all agree this is not a carefully, well documented statement, and because of that we should have qualified it in some fashion.

Again, thank you for your obvious interest in the MMWR and bringing this point to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

*Michael B. Gregg*

Michael B. Gregg, M.D.  
Editor  
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

cc:  
Roger I.M. Glass, M.D.

*Mg/ anesthesia  
(My son cultivated lionfish.)*

*of Center DM*